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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 /057 W
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R 1815550Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4838
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USDOC WASHDC UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6081

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRA, EEWT, PFOR, GE
SUBJECT: VISAS FOR GDR SERVICE ENGINEERS

REF: STATE 106434

1. ECON/COMMERCIAL OFFICER CALLED ON MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SCHMIED AND FRIEDRICH) MAY 18 TO MAKE PRESENTATION CONTEMPLATED IN REFTEL. EMBOFF SAID U.S. IS PLEASED WITH PROGRESS IN OUR RELATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS. U.S. SIDE UNDERSTANDS THE INTEREST OF THE GDR IN STATIONING SERVICE ENGINEERS AS INVOLVING QUESTIONS OF EFFICIENCY, EXPENSE, AND ALSO AS HAVING A HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION IN THAT IT IS MORE COMFORTABLE AND PLEASANT FOR SERVICE ENGINEERS TO BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT THEIR JOBS ACCOMPANIED BY FAMLIY MEMBERS. IN RECOGNITION OF PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN RECORDED RECENTLY, U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR VISAS FOR SERVICE ENGINEERS. WE HOPE THAT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TRADE FIELD WILL CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVEMENTS IN RELATIONS AS A WHOLE.

2. SCHMIED DID NOT FALL OFF HIS CHAIR, BUT WAS CLEARLY SURPRISED AND PLEASED. HE SAID THE GDR
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WELCOMES THIS NEWS, WHICH AUGERS VERY WELL FOR THE FORTHCOMING US-GDR TRADE COMMITTEE TRIP. IT WILL TAKE A WHILE TO DEVELOP NEW CONDIDATES FOR U.S. FSERVICE ENGINEER-HOOD, THE PREVIOUS APPLICANTS HAVING SINCE BEEN ASSIGNED ELSEWHERE.

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3. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION, FRIEDRICH ASKED
FOR CONFIRMATION THAT U.S. IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER
VISAS FOR SERVICE ENGINEER FAMILY MEMBERS. EMBOFF
SAID YES, WE UNDERSTANDE SERVICE ENGINEER PACKAGE
AS INVOLVING FMAILY MEMBERS. SCHMIED TRIED TO GET
A READING ON LENGTH OF STAY U.S. MIGHT PERMIT, AT
ONE POINT SAYING THAT THEY SEND PEOPLE OUT FOR
THREE YEARS. EMBOFF EXPLAINED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE VISA, AN ENTRY DOCUMENT, AND PERMISSION TO
STAY IN U.S., WHICH NON-IMMIGRANTS MUST RENEW AT
6-MONTH INTERVALS. EMBOFF SAID HE THOUGHT IT
UNREALISTIC TO TRY TO LOOK AHEAD MORE THAN ONE YEAR,
AND THAT GDR WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED TO AKS FOR
"MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE VALIDITY" RATHER THAN THREE YEARS.
4. CALL ENDED WITH SCHMIED AGAIN CALLING SERVICE
ENGINEER NEWS A GOOD OMEN FOR TRADE COMMITTEE MEETIGN.

5. FORMAL GDR PRESENTATION ON CONTMEPLATED ROLE
AND ACITIVITES OF SERVICE ENGINEERS WAS REPORTED

IN BERLIN 5036, PARA. 2 AND 3. POLANSKY

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009
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**To:** STATE
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